

Grade 9 - Unit 1 - Independent Reading/Defining Morality

Unit Focus

Students will choose independent reading books from classroom libraries. Students are required to finish one book and are encouraged to read more than one, aiming toward a goal of 200 pages per week. While reading their independent novels, students will learn to:

- Set attainable reading goals
- Develop reading habits in and out of the classroom
- Track thinking in an organized way
- Productively and constructively confer with teacher
- Love to read!

Mini-lessons will feature short anchor texts that present a lens with which to do focus their independent reading and a framework for the next trimester: morality and choices. Teachers will use anchor activities to help students broaden schemas and deepen understandings as they continue their independent work. Thinking should occur in the form of writing every day.

Teachers will confer with students daily, with an aim to meet with each students 1-3 times over the course of the unit.

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

Standard(s)

Transfer

Common Core

English Language Arts: 9-10

- Analyze how complex characters (e.g., those with multiple or conflicting motivations) develop over the course of a text, interact with other characters, and advance the plot or develop the theme. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.3*
- Analyze how an author's choices concerning how to structure a text, order events within it (e.g., parallel plots), and manipulate time (e.g., pacing, flashbacks) create such effects as mystery, tension, or surprise. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.9-10.5*
- Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1*
- Determine a central idea of a text and analyze its development over the course of the text, including how it emerges and is shaped and refined by specific details; provide an objective summary of the text. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.2*
- Develop the topic with well-chosen, relevant, and sufficient facts, extended definitions, concrete details, quotations, or other information and examples appropriate to the audience's knowledge of the topic. *CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.9-10.2.B*
- Come to discussions prepared, having read and researched material under study; explicitly draw on that preparation by referring to evidence from texts and other research on the topic or issue to stimulate a thoughtful, well-reasoned exchange of ideas.

- T1** Come to discussions with support for ideas, having asked probing questions and having analyzed appropriate evidence.
T2 Evaluate the author's message and purpose, citing text evidence to support conclusions.

Meaning

Understanding(s)

Essential Question(s)

- U1** Readers support and elaborate on their interpretation with description and detail (both textual evidence and schema).
U2 Readers and writers come to discussions prepared with text evidence to support their ideas or point of view.
U3 Readers and writers engage in discourse to suspend judgment, consider multiple perspectives, and become independent thinkers.

- Q1** How do readers share their thinking?
Q2 How do readers choose books that matter and make me think?
Q3 How do readers connect important ideas to the bigger picture of their world?
Q4 How do we develop a sense of morality and how does this influence the choices we make?

Stage 1: Desired Results - Key Understandings

<p><i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.A</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with peers to set rules for collegial discussions and decision-making (e.g., informal consensus, taking votes on key issues, presentation of alternate views), clear goals and deadlines, and individual roles as needed. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.B</i> • Propel conversations by posing and responding to questions that relate the current discussion to broader themes or larger ideas; actively incorporate others into the discussion; and clarify, verify, or challenge ideas and conclusions. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.C</i> • Respond thoughtfully to diverse perspectives, summarize points of agreement and disagreement, and, when warranted, qualify or justify their own views and understanding and make new connections in light of the evidence and reasoning presented. <i>CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.9-10.1.D</i> 	<p>U4 Readers choose and read a wide variety of texts and genres with a variety of purposes to grow and change their thinking.</p> <p>U5 Readers recognize that authors don't always say things directly or literally; sometimes they convey ideas indirectly (e.g. metaphor, satire, irony)</p> <p>U6 Readers understand and analyze the idea of morality by analyzing a character's decisions.</p>	
Acquisition of Knowledge and Skill		
	Knowledge	Skill(s)
<p>Student Growth and Development 21st Century Capacities Matrix</p> <p><i>Critical Thinking</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problem Identification: Students will be able to clarify the problem and pose significant questions for investigation. <i>MM.1.1</i> • Analyzing: Students will be able to examine information/data/evidence to make inferences and identify possible underlying assumptions, patterns, and relationships. <i>MM.1.2</i> 	<p>K1 Annotating and journaling are used to track thinking while reading.</p> <p>K2 Protocols for collaborative discussion: speak frequently, ask high level questions, cite evidence from text when bringing forth ideas or answering others' questions; express thoughts in complete sentences, ask others for clarification, bring others into the conversation, move the conversation forward.</p> <p>K3 Moral dilemmas are situations in which there is a choice to be made between two options, neither of which resolves the situation in an ethically acceptable fashion.</p> <p>K4 Vocabulary: metacognition, annotation, connection, identify, evaluate, analyze, moral dilemma, temptation, pressure, conflict, human nature.</p>	<p>S1 Tracking thinking while reading.</p> <p>S2 Working with classmates to establish protocols for productive, collegial discussions and decision making.</p> <p>S3 Evaluating character motives and decisions.</p>